

The last Speech and Confession of WILLIAM-MEEK MEYER,
who was executed at Tyburn, near York, on Friday the 6th
of April, 1781, for the Murder of Joseph Spink.

WILLIAM-MEEK MEYER, Esq; the
unfortunate malefactor, is only 27
years of age. His life hath been a mixture
of trouble and impatience. The only plea-
sure he seemed to enjoy was cock-fighting,
hunting, racing, and breeding blood horses,
and was fond of low company. His father
allowed him but a small maintenance, till his
step-mother-in-law, Mrs. Meyer, a widow, left him
an estate at Baildon, near Bradford, to the
amount of 800 l. per annum, for which he
changed his name. His horses, and other
expences, lewd women not excepted, invol-
ved him in great difficulties. A few years
ago, he was committed to York Castle for
debt, where he remained a year and an half;
having several detainers. He sold a fall of
wood, in order to support him while there;
and was very generous to prisoners, particu-
larly the felons; he frequently gave them
money to see counsel with, when he wanted
himself. He superceeded himself out of the
castle, and never made an end of his affairs.
His father was willing to sell a part of his
estate in his life-time, to pay his debts, and
to support on him and his family, but he
obstinately refused to sign the writings, which
very much disoblged his father. He was of
passionate and thoughtless temper, and hath
frequently taken sudden fits like a madman,
leaping out of the window with a sword in his
hand, and shewed several other signs of insa-
nity. He was in great distress at the time
his unhappy affair happened, and owns the
wisdom of his sentence. His behaviour was
never haughty, and appeared to be very
humilical, but of a close and sullen temper.
The time before the above unfortunate af-
fair happened, he said he was foretold, that
it would be a fatal year to him, and ordered
him to be ware what he transacted on a Wednes-
day, which was the very day the above mur-
der was committed.

The sound of the trumpet, when the Judge
came, greatly affected him; and what is very
remarkable, whenever he passed by Tyburn,
he was always terrified at the sight of it.

When he was told that he must suffer, he
was resigned, and had expected and
prepared for the awful catastrophe. Nothing
disturbed him in suffering an ignominious
death, but the thoughts that his children
should not hear his name, after his death
without horror.

He was taken from the gaol between two
and three o'clock, guarded by the Sher-
iff's Officers, and a great many Constables,
in a mourning coach, to Tyburn, where the
Rev. Chaplain waited to recommend his soul
to the Divine Mercy.

After he had finished his prayers with the Chaplain,
he discoursed very much with the Under-Sheriff, de-
claring he absolutely had no intention of shooting the

prisoner for whom his life was now demanded, but that
his pistol went off in a manner he could not possibly
describe. He likewise conversed about his estates and
family, particularly mentioning in what manner he
would wish to have his son educated, and recommend-
ing certain persons as trustees for his offspring. He
then prayed by himself, and harangued the spectators
for a considerable time. This done, the awful sen-
tence was executed upon this unfortunate Gentleman,
in the sight of a numerous concourse of people.

The LAST SPEECH and CONFESSION of
Joseph Lingwood,

Taken from his own Mouth the Night before
his Execution, by Thomas Fourby, in the
Presence of Thomas Ackroyd, Matthew
Williamson, and John Moson, who was
executed at Tyburn, near YORK, on Sa-
turday the 7th of April, 1781, for rob-
bing Margaret Lee, of Huntington, on
the Highway, of 19 s. 3 d. &c.

I JOSEPH LINGWOOD was born at Kirby-Hill,
near Boroughbridge, of honest and industrious pa-
rents, who always gave me good advice, but being of
an obstinate and turbulent temper, would not take it.
I was brought up a labourer, and lived with Mr. Rich.
Morley, of Dilsforth, but falling out with him, he
paid me my wages, and I went off the country. Being
in a rage, and not knowing what to do for my future
support, I enlisted into the 5th regiment of foot, in
Captain John Harrison's own company, who were ly-
ing at Kilkenny in Ireland, where I was sent, but not
relishing the duty, I deserted and came over in wo-
men's clothes, along with a lady of pleasure, to Liver-
pool, with whom I lived for four or five days; there I
left her and come home to my parents, where I mar-
ried, but to this day, they don't know that ever I was
in his Majesty's service. After my marriage I went to
Strensal, and wrought at the brick-trade for some time,
but being tired of that employment, I was determined
to go home again to my wife, and in the road betwixt
York and Huntington I met with Margaret Lee, with
whom I had a long conversation, and at last asked her
if she would allow me to lay her down; she gave me
denial at first, but soon after consented, and said we
should go out of the turnpike, or some people would
see us. We went out of the road together, and after
we had done, being in liquor I threatened her, on which
she said, "Only spare my life, and I will give you my
money," which I declare only amounted to 1 s. 5 d.
halfpenny. I took a handkerchief from her, but not
by violence, for she was agreeable to every thing that
I transacted with her; she then desired me to set her
into the road, which I did, and told me I might as
well take her cloak, which I took without any thought.
I accompanied her to Huntingdon, and she went home,
for any thing I know, and sent her husband to seize
me, when I was taken without any resistance.

A little before the unfortunate affair happened which
is the occasion of my untimely end, a raven flew over
my head, for more than a mile, and crossed me first
one way and then another, which struck me, and I
imagined that it denoted death, but never thought that
I was to be the victim.

I am unfortunately cut off in the prime of my life,
leaving only 27 years of age—I declare that I forgive
both Judge and Jury, and die at peace with all man-
kind; and I hope that the generous public will be
free of reflections on my memory, as I declare the
above is truth, being soon to appear before God to
answer for all my actions done in the body.

JOSEPH LINGWOOD.

Earl of Oxford & Ashburnham
 (in the lock) in view of
 your & Mr. H. H. H.
 you as agent for the
 full & truly & justly
 for 15-35 years of age & all
 from my youth up to you

to prevent to Commerce of the
withought fee or Bribes
there. I hope there will be



John Pomeroy
99 John

